

Message Text

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52

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 RSR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-14 USIA-12 OMB-01 T-03 GAC-01 ACDA-19 MC-02 AID-20

IGA-02 /157 W

----- 061395

R 151100 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9800

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

CONFIDENTIAL TRIPOLI 0318

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS IT LY

SUBJECT: ITALIAN ARMS SALES TO LIBYA

1. FRENCH COUNSELOR BERNARD GUENNEC, WHO IN CHARGE MILITARY AFFAIRS INCLUDING PARTICULARLY MIRAGE PROGRAM, AND WHO HAS PROVED USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE, TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 14 HE HAD " UNCONFIRMED REPORT" THAT LARAF REPRESENTATIVE NOW IN ITALY SEEKING PURCHASE 20 BOEING CH-47 CHINOOK HELICOPTERS " FROM ITALIAN MANUFACTURER". EMBOFF REMARKED HE COULDN' T CONFIRM GUENNEC' S INFORMATION, INDEED DID NOT KNOW WHETHER AN ITALIAN LICENSEE IS PRODUCING CHINOOKS.

2. GUENNEC MUSED AT LENGTH ABOUT SUPPLY US EQUIPMENT VIA ITALIAN LICENSEES NOTING THAT HE AWARE LARAF RECEIVED LAST DECEMBER SEVEN REPEAT SEVEN BELL AGUSTA HELICOPTERS. HE ASKED ABOUT USG PROCEDURES RE SUCH SALES; EMBOFF EXPLAINED THAT LIMITATIONS RE USE AND TRANSFER OF EQUIPMENT APPLY EQUALLY TO EQUIPMENT PRODUCED IN U. S. OR IN THIRD COUNTRY BY LICENSEE.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST WE RECALL HEARING ABOUT
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LARAF INTEREST IN CHINOOKS AND CANNOT ADD ANYTHING TO
GUENNEC'S " UNCONFIRMED REPORT". WHILE RECOGNIZING
FRENCH MIGHT HAVE ULTERIOR COMMERCIAL MOTIVE
IN SHARING THIS INFORMATION, WE INCLINED BELIEVE
GUENNEC EXPECTED CONFIRMATION FROM US. CAN ADDRESSEES
SHED ANY LIGHT ON SUBJECT?
JOSIF

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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